



United States Department  
of Agriculture

National Agricultural  
Statistics Service

USDA/NASS  
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# Washington Crop Weather

Released: September 25, 2006  
Week Ending: September 24, 2006  
CWP WA-CW3906

## Rain Increased Conditions, While Slowing Harvest

Rain across the state reduced the days suitable for fieldwork to 5.7. Cooler temperatures and increased moisture have been both good and bad for producers. While more rain is needed for winter wheat seeding, it slows harvest for potatoes, sweet corn and other vegetables. Winter wheat seeding continued and began emerging, while the dry bean harvest winded down. Alfalfa producers were busy with their third and fourth cuttings.

### Livestock

Range and pasture conditions were 7% very poor, 10% poor, 37% fair and 46% good. Increased precipitation helped pastures green up. Calves were being moved to market for the first fall feeder sales.

### Fruit and Vegetables

Grape harvest was underway. Apple and pear harvest continued but slowed down due to the increased rainfall. Garlic was planted and leeks were almost ready for harvest. Broccoli, sweet corn, carrot and pumpkin harvest continued.

#### Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	5.7
Last Week	6.5

#### Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	14	40	45	1
Topsoil 5 Yr Avg	22	39	37	2
Subsoil	9	37	54	0
Subsoil 5 Yr Avg	16	43	41	0
Irrigation Water	2	5	93	0
Irrigation Water 5 Yr Avg	5	7	88	0
Hay & Roughage	1	25	73	1

VS=Very Short SH=Short AD=Adequate S=Surplus

#### Crop Progress

Crop/Activity	Percent Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2005	5 Yr. Avg.
Winter Wheat Planted	68	45	50	60
Winter Wheat Emerged	20	NA	24	34
Potatoes Harvested	65	62	65	57
Corn Doughed	100	90	100	100
Corn Dented	88	70	93	85
Corn Mature	56	50	67	58
Corn Harvest	23	10	NA	1
Corn Silage Harvested	40	30	46	41
Dry Edible Beans Harvested	71	60	70	55
Alfalfa Hay 3rd Cutting	99	98	95	98

#### Crop Condition\*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Corn	0	0	20	78	2

VP=Very Poor P=Poor F=Fair G=Good EX=Excellent

\* Crop conditions are a measurement of the growing conditions and are not indicative of the quality of the crop produced.

# COUNTY COMMENTS

## Western

**Grays Harbor:** Heavy rain showers early in the week helped to alleviate drought conditions throughout the county. The increased moisture and cooler temperatures have helped to "revitalize" drought stricken plant material. Sweet corn growers continued topping corn to prevent lodging. Christmas tree growers reported the rain and cooler temperatures have intensified tree color. Livestock producers harvested silage corn and quickly reseeded harvested fields with winter rye. Home gardeners continued feasting on sweet corn, tomatoes, green beans and a host of other vegetable crops.

**Grays Harbor/Lewis/Pacific:** Significant rain fell during the past week which helped dry pastures green up.

**Mason:** A few days of rain and cooler temperatures made fall seem like it was really here. The weekend highs in the 80's made irrigation necessary once again. Our extended summer was proving good for corn and tomatoes, holding off blight for yet another week. Dahlias were still blooming and filling the local farmers markets. Lights went up in the laying hen coops, as days were starting to creep below 12 hours of daylight. Winter crops were getting a jump start with a little extra warmth, helping germination along. Garlic was planted, and leeks were just about ready for harvest. Canning and home preservation were popular activities this weekend. Putting away green beans, pickles, tomatoes, corn relish, and stone fruit made pantries colorful for the coming fall and winter.

**Mason (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** A total of 1.1 inches of precipitation this past week has relieved our dry spell. There was heavy morning dew and warm temperatures were forecast for the greater part of the week. Harvested corn fields were rototilled down to get rid of the remaining weeds and the underlying soil was still quite dry. Yellow jackets are ferocious right now and producers were busy trying to find their holes and spray them at night.

**Pierce/South King:** Crop conditions remained good for the South Puget Sound area. Recent rains have really helped the corn and other crops. No unusual situations

to report. No report of any crop damage due to a weather event.

**Skagit:** High temperatures for the week averaged 62 degrees and at 1.3 inches of precipitation were recorded at the WSU North West Research and Extension Center in West Mount Vernon. With over one inch of rain last week potato, broccoli, corn and pumpkin harvest was still underway but many were rained out for a few days. Cucumber harvest was complete. Beet seed harvest was rained out for much of the week and the crop had to be "turned". This involved a large crew of laborers to manually turn the row of seed so that the underside of the row can dry in the sun. Some of the seed was lost in process and with the cost of labor at an all time high seed farmers do not look favorably upon turning their crop. Next years tulip, daffodil and wheat fields were currently being planted.

**Skagit/San Juan/Island:** Rain fell the first part of the week. Farmers have indicated that the rain was helpful for some crops, but not for others. Some beet seed crops have not been combined to date which may be affected by the rain of last week. Recently planted fall crops may have been affected by the rain too.

**Snohomish/King:** It looked like fall was here with the rain. After a dry summer we had 1.3 inches of rain so far this month. Clallam and Jefferson Counties have been dry but the rains started last week. When the farmers could be in the field they were harvesting.

**Thurston:** Agriculture producers welcomed several days of rain showers early in the week. There was enough rainfall in most areas to penetrate the soil profile by several inches. The rain really helped germination on newly seeded turf grass fields. Christmas tree growers reported the rain resulted in increased intensity of tree color. U-Pick pumpkin farms were gearing up for opening fields on October 1. Livestock producers continued applying liquid manure to forage fields.

**Whatcom:** Two days of showers slowed potato digging and corn silage harvest, but brought some relief to the dry and dusty conditions.

## Central

**Chelan:** Rain in some areas during the past week slowed an already slow harvest of apples and pears. Pear harvest was nearly complete, and apple harvest was at its peak. Apple harvest will continue until early November, but will be at its highest activity over the next three weeks. Few growers have as many pickers as they would like to have.

**Chelan/Douglas:** Some precipitation was received early in the week. Some winter wheat had not emerged yet and therefore will need to be replanted because the ground crusted. Apple harvest continued. Cooler temperatures have been experienced. Livestock were moved onto their fall pasture ranges.

**Franklin:** Temperatures were near normal for this time of the year. Cool mornings with days warming up into the 70's during the day. Last of the sweet corn was being harvested while field corn seed was in the middle of harvest. Earlier variety apple harvest was continuing. Bean harvest was nearing the end while bean seed harvest was complete. Potato and carrot harvest continued (with processor carrots near the end). Crop

and weather conditions were normal for the year.

**Grant:** Fourth cutting of alfalfa was at 40 percent. Growers were waiting for more stable weather conditions to continue cutting.

**Grant (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Third cutting of alfalfa was winding down. Apple harvest was continuing. Potato harvest had begun. Silage corn harvest continued. Dry bean harvest continued. Winter wheat stands have emerged.

**Ferry/Okanogan:** Third cutting of hay has been swathed although a lot of it is not baled due to some earlier rains and cold nights. Most cattle were being brought into the fall ranges from the summer pastures. Apple harvest was still in process.

**Yakima:** Average temperatures varied from seven degrees below normal to two degrees above normal, with a trace of precipitation. No new crop losses due to weather conditions were reported.

## Eastern

**Adams:** Winter wheat seeding was complete and was mostly emerged and in good condition.

**Adams (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Final hay cuttings were down and drying amongst good weather. Emerged wheat looked very good throughout the county.

**Asotin/Garfield:** Rain and cool temperatures this past week were a welcome change from dry conditions. Rain totals were spotty however with some areas receiving up to an inch with other areas less than a tenth of an inch.

**Garfield:** Small amounts of rain plus colder nights allowed Downey Brome to germinate. Very few growers were panicking and dusting in winter wheat. Varieties were mixes of three top whites with some trying hard red winter varieties. Much more moisture was needed for seeding.

**Lincoln:** Winter wheat seeding was nearing completion in Lincoln County.

**Lincoln (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Winter wheat was emerging nicely.

**Pend Oreille:** Temperatures for the highs were 67 degrees and the lows were 26 degrees with 0.6 inches plus for precipitation. Rain helped with some new

growth, cold nights have produced heavy dew in morning hours which also helped with the prior dry conditions. No changes in livestock.

**Pend Oreille/Spokane:** A week with a small amount of rain but not enough to really help. Some growers have started seeding winter wheat and more will follow. The cool weather has helped, but more rain is needed.

**Stevens:** Several days of rain showers last week provided moisture for winter wheat seeding which reduced the fire danger. Temperatures were definitely fall-like with frost occurring several times recently. Calves started moving to market in larger groups as the first fall feeder sales occurred.

**Walla Walla:** The area received some much welcomed rain showers mid week. Many were getting started with fall planting. Columbia County was still recovering from the Columbia Complex Fire, although the rain helped in slowing the fires progress.

**Whitman:** Rains made a welcomed appearance to the area last week just in time to wet the top soil for seeding. Tillage work on stubble ground continued. Many operations will begin seeding winter wheat this week.

# Weekly Weather Statistics

September 25, 2006

Station	Air Temperature				Growing Degree Days				Last Week Precipitation			Season Precipitation			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	Base 50F		Base 60F		Total			Total		% Normal	Days
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	Inches	DFN	Days	Inches	DFN		
<b>WEST</b>															
Bellingham	39	70	55	-2	37	-9	0	-5	1.44	0.95	4	1.57	0.10	107	8
Everett	45	72	57	-1	46	-4	2	-5	0.50	-0.04	4	1.51	-0.16	90	9
Hoquiam	44	81	59	-1	66	0	9	-5	0.89	0.04	4	1.11	-1.33	45	7
Kelso	35	82	58	-2	60	-6	7	-7	1.16	0.58	4	1.49	-0.34	81	7
Olympia	39	78	57	0	47	0	2	-3	0.64	0.07	4	0.69	-1.03	40	7
Sea-Tac	47	77	58	-3	55	-11	6	-6	1.00	0.51	4	1.43	-0.03	98	8
Shelton	38	82	57	-2	51	-11	3	-10	0.85	0.15	4	1.68	-0.33	84	7
Tacoma	40	79	57	-3	50	-9	3	-4	0.65	0.16	3	0.71	-0.80	47	4
Vancouver	42	85	60	2	74	12	14	1	0.50	0.01	4	0.63	-0.94	40	7
<b>CENTRAL</b>															
Ellensburg	42	78	58	2	60	9	3	-9	0.01	-0.10	1	0.07	-0.36	16	3
Stampede Pass	39	68	49	2	15	1	0	0	1.25	0.38	4	2.22	-0.39	85	9
Wenatchee	43	76	59	-3	63	-18	4	-22	0.00	-0.07	0	0.04	-0.30	12	1
Yakima AP	35	77	55	-4	41	-24	3	-15	0.00	-0.07	0	0.55	0.21	162	1
<b>NORTHEAST</b>															
Colville	37	71	54	-2	29	-14	0	-8	0.26	-0.01	3	0.46	-0.49	48	5
Deer Park	29	71	52	-6	19	-35	0	-14	0.40	0.19	3	0.51	-0.21	71	4
Spokane AP	38	72	54	-4	28	-26	0	-15	0.29	0.15	2	0.32	-0.29	52	3
<b>EAST CENTRAL</b>															
Ephrata	40	75	58	-5	60	-27	3	-28	0.14	0.05	3	0.42	0.12	140	5
Moses Lake	38	76	57	-6	49	-38	2	-29	0.20	0.11	3	0.25	-0.05	83	4
Quincy	42	74	58	-3	55	-16	0	-22	0.10	0.03	2	0.15	-0.22	41	3
Ritzville	34	70	53	-6	20	-39	0	-16	0.16	0.02	2	0.16	-0.28	36	2
<b>SOUTHEAST</b>															
Hanford	42	79	60	-7	73	-37	9	-38	0.11	0.04	3	0.20	-0.09	69	5
Pasco	37	78	58	-5	57	-30	4	-27	0.34	0.27	2	0.36	0.06	120	4
Pullman	36	72	54	-3	29	-22	1	-12	0.63	0.38	3	0.63	-0.13	83	3
Whitman Miss.	36	75	56	-4	46	-22	0	-19	0.61	0.45	3	0.66	0.16	132	5
<b>ID PANHANDLE</b>															
Coeur D'A' AP	36	66	53	-7	22	-39	0	-16	0.28	0.00	2	0.28	-0.68	29	2
Lewiston ID	44	76	58	-5	58	-27	8	-24	0.66	0.52	4	0.67	0.05	108	5

Summary based on NWS data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Wednesday September 1, 2006

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).

NA = Data Unavailable

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches. Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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National weather summary: <http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/reports/waobr/weather/2006/summary/weth1606.pdf>

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